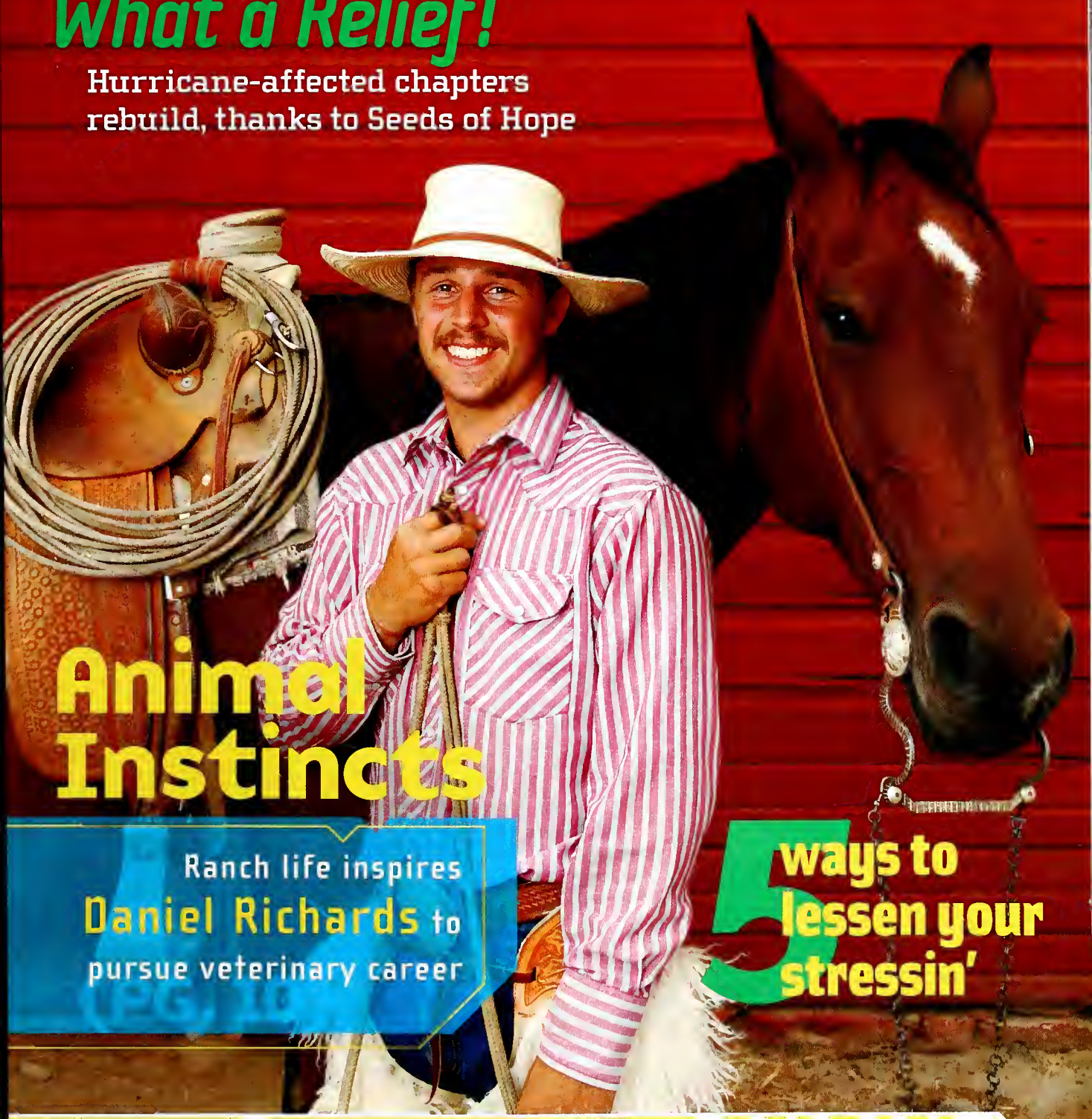
FFA NEW HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION | April 2007

What a Relief!

Hurricane-affected chapters rebuild, thanks to Seeds of Hope



Animal Instincts

Ranch life inspires **Daniel Richards** to pursue veterinary career

(PG. 16)

5 ways to lessen your stressin'

Alive and Clicking! Look inside for links to the brand-new ffanewhorizons.org

BUMPER TO B

INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW FULL-SIZE TUNDRA. Success? To you, it's a record harvest. For us, it's giving you the truck that you asked for. The Tundra's available 5.7L V8 delivers 381 hp, 401 lb.-ft. of torque and up to 10,800 lbs. of towing capacity.[1,2] More than enough to handle nearly any farm chore, from hauling seed to towing heavy equipment. The huge bed holds plenty of feed or supplies with an available payload capacity of up to 1,990 lbs.[3], while the cab has ample storage and comfort to double as your field office. Drive the all-new Tundra and we think you'll agree, when it comes to full-size half-tons, it's the pick of the crop. Bumper to bumper. **Find out more at toyota.com**

[1] 4x2 Regular Cab Long Bed.
[2] Before towing, confirm your vehicle and trailer are compatible, hooked up and loaded properly and that you have any necessary additional equipment. Do not exceed any Weight Ratings and follow all instructions in your *Owner's Manual*. The maximum you can tow depends on the total weight of any cargo, occupants and available equipment.
[3] 5.7L V-8 4x2 Regular Cab Long Bed. Payload is the GVWR minus curb weight and includes weight of occupants, optional equipment and cargo, limited by weight distribution. Payload is not the Vehicle Capacity Weight as defined by FMVSS 110, which will vary according to installed optional equipment.
Options Shown. ©2007 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

UMPER CROP.

THE TRUCK THAT'S CHANGING IT ALL.

TOYOTA TRUCKS TUNDRA

From New York to Idaho, FFA is a group effort.

KIM NEWSOM

Here's what I appreciate most about FFA: It's all-inclusive. Whether you grew up on a farm or in a downtown apartment, FFA is a good fit. And regardless of your agricultural experience, any student can – and should – be an FFA member.

For example, in our last issue, you read about John Bowne, an FFA chapter in the heart of New York City – as urban as you can get. And, this month, we take you to a cattle ranch in rural Idaho, where FFA member Daniel Richards works toward his goal of becoming a large-animal veterinarian. Through his supervised agricultural experience program, Daniel realized his skill for working with animals, and he's expanded that interest into a career goal.

As much as I appreciate the diversity among FFA members, an admirable trait they share is concern for one another. Despite background or geography, FFA members come together to help their neighbors in need. My favorite example is the remarkable support FFA members gave to other chapters after hurricanes Katrina and Rita through the National FFA Organization's Seeds of Hope campaign. Individuals, FFA chapters and businesses contributed, raising some $835,000.

Now, a year and a half after the program started, we take a look at Seeds of Hope and its phenomenal success in rebuilding the affected FFA chapters.

And I can't leave out our biggest announcement: We're online! Check out the brand-new *FFA New Horizons* website at ffanewhorizons.org. There you'll find all the stories from this issue, plus more polls, quizzes, photos and a section for you to submit your story. Look around, then click on Tell Us to share your thoughts.

— *Kim Newsom*

FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268
newhorizons@ffa.org

MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

Dedicated FFA staff like Josh Bledsoe helped organize and facilitate Seeds of Hope. Read his comments on page 16.

ONLINE
ffanewhorizons.org

Photo Flashback

Want to relive your favorite national FFA convention memories? Click on Fun Stuff to see our convention slideshow, set to the "Blue Jackets, Gold Standards" convention song.

EDITOR'S BLOG

To find out what goes on behind the scenes of *FFA New Horizons*, check out the Editor's Blog.

TELL US

Click on Tell Us to submit story ideas or send feedback about the magazine and website.

WEB POLL:

What FFA alumnus would you most like to read about in *FFA New Horizons*?

BO JACKSON
JIMMY CARTER
TOBY KEITH
MATTHEW FOX
SAM BROWNBACK

To vote, visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on Fun Stuff. Answers will be posted in an upcoming issue.

ONLINE
ffanewhorizons.org

10 cover story

Animal Instincts
Ranch life inspires Daniel Richards to pursue veterinary career.

14

What a Relief
Hurricane-affected chapters rebuild, thanks to Seeds of Hope.

18

Send Him the Bills
State legislator Harold Brubaker's favorite CDE? Parliamentary procedure, of course!

departments

Scrapbook 4
Read news, jokes and more.

FFA Faces 6
Win a Chevy T-shirt.

National Officer Q & A 8
Meet Secretary Kacy Baugher.

Careers 21
Test your political smarts.

Your Money 22
Decode paycheck deductions.

Healthy Lifestyles 24
Learn to lessen your stressin'.

What's Hot 26
Tell us how you describe FFA.

How To ... 28
Build a great résumé.

What's On 30
Check out our new website.

Back Talk 32
Meet FFA alumnus Troy Justesen.

On the Cover
Daniel Richards, Melba FFA, Idaho
Photo By Greg Emens

4

14

18

21

22

Crowning Glory

FFA member Tyne Morgan from Lexington, Mo., is currently representing Missouri as its state fair queen. During her reign, Tyne serves as the state's agricultural ambassador and attends conferences.

But she's long been telling the story of agriculture.

Tyne is a farm broadcaster for the Brownfield Ag Radio network and an agricultural communications major at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He's Got the Beat

Bryce Jackson is no ordinary singer. In fact, this talented FFA member sings, drums and scratches the turntables using nothing but his voice. Bryce, a Serrano FFA member in California, is a vocal percussionist, which means he uses his mouth to create beats, rhythms and melodies that mimic instruments.

Vocal percussion (also known as "beatboxing") is a difficult skill to master, and Bryce, who learned to beatbox from his older brother, says he likes to mix vocal percussion with natural singing.

ONLINE To hear Bryce perform, visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on Fun Stuff.

Just Joking

What is the longest word in the dictionary?
Smiles: There is a mile between each "s."
John Mallen, West Hancock FFA, Iowa

Where do crayons go on vacation?
"Color"ado
Myriah Morris, Fairhope FFA, Alabama

What did the cow say to the other cow in rush-hour traffic?
"Why aren't we moo-ving?"
Jimmy Teixeria, Nipomo FFA, California

ONLINE ffanewhorizons.org

For more jokes, click on Fun Stuff.

Last fall, California's Atwater FFA chapter visited Wild Things Inc., a wildlife education organization in Weimar, Calif., where they learned about exotic animal careers.

Flamingo Funding

Drive through Neversink, N.Y., and you're likely to see a few yards filled with pink plastic flamingos. Don't be alarmed. It's just the Tri-Valley FFA's latest fundraiser.

Here's how it works: Local residents call in to "flock" a friend in the community. The unsuspecting targets receive 32 flamingos and a sign in their yards. They can either pay a "removal fee" to the chapter or choose to flock someone else.

Tri-Valley FFA is using the money to help support a chapter trip to Ireland.

YOUR TURN

Keep us informed! This is your chance to be a part of *FFA New Horizons*. Send us a short article about your latest chapter activities, awards you've received or even your involvement outside FFA.

Be sure to include a high-quality color photo and your contact information.

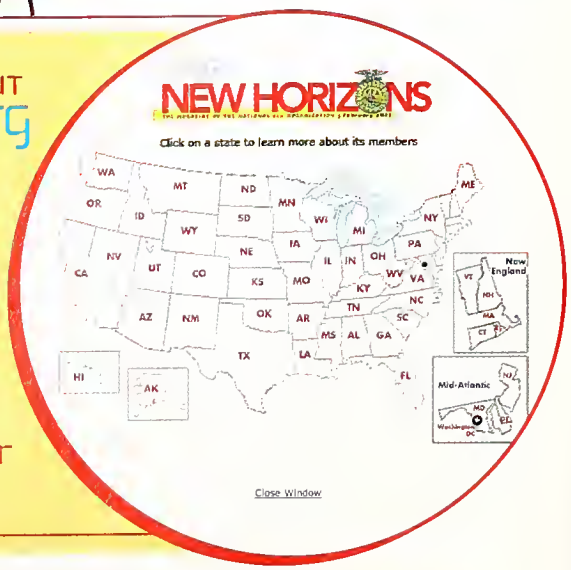
Want an easy way to send your story? Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on Tell Us.

Or, send to:
FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268
newhorizons@ffa.org

$4 BILLION

That's how much money FFA members make annually through hands-on experiences and jobs. Get involved in a supervised agricultural experience program, and earn your part!

Need new chapter ideas or want to learn about other states? Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on State Scoop for the latest FFA news from across the country. There, you'll read about outstanding members, more scrapbook stories and chapter achievements. Also be sure to check out state inserts from associations like Texas, Georgia and California in easy-to-read virtual magazines. You might even find a new chapter fundraiser or a long-distance friend.



Win a Chevrolet T-Shirt

Chevrolet, the sponsor of FFA Faces, will award a T-shirt to featured members. Nominate yourself or a fellow FFA member by sending us the following details about the nominee: name, grade, address, FFA and academic achievements, interests and extracurricular activities. To be considered, submissions must include a high-quality color photo.

Send to:
FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268
Or e-mail to newhorizons@ffa.org

Emilee Cowan — CO

Chapter: Platte Valley FFA

A high school freshman, Emilee has competed in the FFA Creed Career Development Event (CDE) and looks forward to participating in quiz bowl and public speaking. She also raises hogs and market lambs for her supervised agricultural experience program (SAE). Emilee says her brother Aaron is a former State Star in Agricultural Placement, and he encouraged her to join FFA.

Justin Gentry — MD

Chapter: South Callaway FFA

This high school sophomore has built his diverse SAE around cattle production, custom lawn care and hay baling. Since joining FFA, Justin has taken part in the chapter's beef jerky and fruit sales and the county fair ham-curing competition. In addition to FFA, Justin plays varsity football, runs track and plays basketball.

Hayley Peyerk — MI

Chapter: Laker FFA

A high school sophomore, Hayley enjoys her FFA involvement because it encourages learning. Last year, she won first place in the state broiler chickens competition and received her Greenhand FFA Degree. Hayley also has participated in her chapter's fruit and geranium sales and competed in the skills competition. Hayley hopes to someday become a movie director.

Jorge Luis Huizar — CA

Chapter: Winters FFA

A four-year member of his chapter's livestock judging team, Jorge and his teammates competed in the national event last October, placing second. For his SAE, he raises show pigs for county fairs and currently has two sows for breeding. After graduating this year, Jorge plans to attend college and major in agricultural business with a minor in animal science.

Kali Lueck — ND

Chapter: Hettinger FFA

Kali joined the Hettinger FFA Chapter in the seventh grade. Now a high school junior, she serves as chapter president and an FFA spokesperson. She recruits new members to the chapter and tells them about the benefits of FFA membership. Kali believes FFA has taught her to be a better person and that it will help her someday enter a medical career.

Austin Davis — FL

Chapter: Trenton FFA

Austin found his career path while competing on his chapter's state-winning agricultural mechanics CDE team. A college freshman, he is now enrolled in the John Deere Agricultural Technology Program at Southwest Georgia Technical College in Thomasville, Ga. While in high school, Austin held several FFA offices and competed on the forestry CDE team.

Sara Brubaker — GA

Chapter: Madison County FFA

This well-balanced FFA member has been involved in nearly every facet of the program, from raising livestock to assisting with her chapter's barbecue chicken sale. Sara also served as chapter secretary and received her State FFA Degree last year. An honors graduate, she is a freshman pre-dentistry major at North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega, Ga.

*Whichever comes first. See dealer for details. †Based on 3/4- and 1-ton vehicles in the 2007 GM Large Pickup segment. Excludes other GM vehicles. ©2007 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

MOST HORSEPOWER. Available 365 hp from the Duramax® Turbo Diesel. **MOST TORQUE.** Maximum 660 lb.-ft. delivered by the available Allison® transmission. **MOST COVERAGE.** 100,000 mile/5-year Powertrain Limited Warranty.* The all new Chevy™ Silverado® HD, the most powerful truck in its class.† Put on your hard hat, and visit our heavy duty work site at chevy.com **OUR COUNTRY. OUR TRUCK.™**

Kacy Baugher

National FFA Secretary

KACY'S FAVORITES

This Illinois member loves McDonald's, pop music and animals. Read on for more of Kacy's favorites.

Color: Yellow

School subject: Math

FFA historical event: Creation of the FFA jacket

Smell: Vanilla

Food: French fries

FFA memory: First state convention

Board game: Monopoly

Animal: Dog

Q What do you think makes FFA unique from any other youth organization?

A The opportunities available in FFA are unlike those in any other organization. It amazes me that students can go from poultry judging one day to state convention the next, using different skills and learning about so many sides of agriculture.

Q Summer is near. How can FFA members stay motivated through the break?

A I always loved going to chapter events during the summer, but it was always important that the members knew about it before break. Whether working at a petting zoo or hosting a cookout, summer events were a great time to plan for the next year and stay excited about FFA!

Q What's your favorite chapter banquet memory?

A My favorite memory is from the chapter banquet my freshman year in high school. The banquet was my first chance to see my friends in action, presenting and speaking with so much confidence. It was eye-opening to put on my blue jacket and realize everything our chapter had accomplished in just one year.

Q Do you have a secret for relieving stress?

A I love listening to music. Whenever I have a lot of work to get done or just need time to think, the right music always helps. It can be a great way to take your mind off things and refocus.

Q What have you learned most about yourself so far as a national officer?

A I have learned that I may be different from everyone else in the world, but we all have something to add. FFA has helped me realize my strengths, and I am enjoying watching members this year discover their potential.

Q Can you give us your definition of personal growth?

A Personal growth is a continuous process that definitely can't happen overnight. Everyone has a chance to grow, and by focusing on our goals, the opportunities are endless. If we are determined and committed, we will never stop growing.

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

Click on Features to read more about Kacy.

FFA

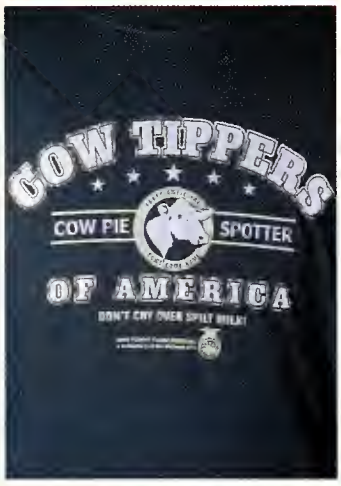
CORN FED
FARM RAISED
National FFA

FFA
No matter how you look at it...

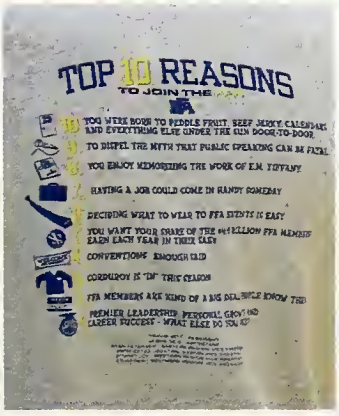
NAKED & HUNGRY

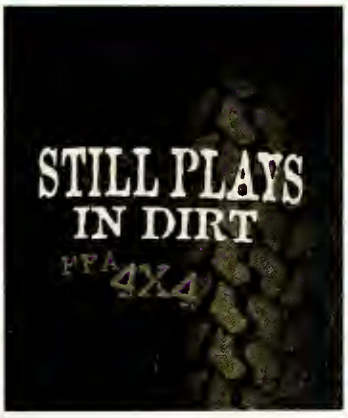
SALE!
Entire Stock of
Tees $10!
To order, call 1-888-332-2668
or visit www.ffaunlimited.com
AGRICULTURAL FFA EDUCATION
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! SALES END MAY 1

FIVE WAYS TO TELL YOU ARE AN
FFA MEMBER
1. BECAUSE YOU ARE HAVING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!

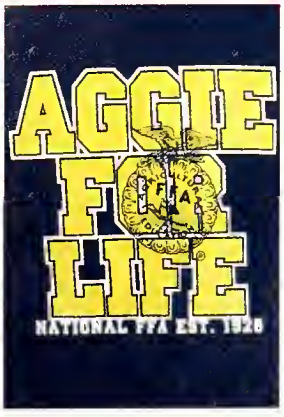

COW TIPPERS
COW PIE SPOTTER
OF AMERICA
DON'T CRY OVER SPILT MILK!

T.C.F.A.
THANK GOODNESS FOR AGRICULTURE


TOP 10 REASONS
TO JOIN THE FFA
TOO WERE BORN TO PEDDLE FRUIT, BEEF JERKY, CALENDARS AND EVERYTHING ELSE UNDER THE SUN DOOR-TO-DOOR
TO DISPEL THE MYTH THAT PUBLIC SPEAKING CAN BE FATAL
YOU ENJOY MEMORIZING THE WORK OF E.M. TIFFANY
HAVING A JOB COULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY
DECIDING WHAT TO WEAR TO FFA EVENTS IS EASY
YOU WANT YOUR SHARE OF THE EARN EACH YEAR IN THEIR SALES
CONVENTIONS ENOUGH SAID
CORDUROY IS "IN" THIS SEASON
FFA MEMBERS ARE KIND OF A BIG DEAL
PREMIER LEADERSHIP, PERSONAL GROWTH AND CAREER SUCCESS - WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW


STILL PLAYS
IN DIRT
FFA 4X4

ASK TO SEE MY
FARMER'S TAN


AGGIE
FOR
LIFE
NATIONAL FFA EST. 1928

Animal Instincts

Story by Kevin Litwin
Photography by Greg Emens

Ranch life inspires Daniel Richards to pursue veterinary medicine career

FYI

HAVE GOALS, WILL WORK

While Daniel has been around livestock his entire life, many aspiring veterinarians don't have the same ranch experience.

But don't let geography stand in your way. If you want to learn more about veterinary science or other animal-related careers, visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on Features.

Not many people would ever mistake Daniel Richards for being a city boy.

"I'm not a big fan of town life," says the 20-year-old rancher from Reynolds Creek, Idaho, who raises cattle and horses on his family's 2,200-acre spread.

Daniel is rural, through and through. He grew up on a ranch, will always be involved with ranches and hopes to eventually buy his very own. In the meantime, he is attending school at the College of Southern Idaho to become a veterinarian while continuing to work for the family livestock operation.

"My ultimate goal is to make enough money at being a vet to buy my own ranch someday," he says. "I want to be a large-animal vet for cattle, horses and hogs, so a perfect day for me as a vet would be to jump in my pickup truck, drive to someone's ranch and vaccinate some cattle or pull a calf at birth. No doubt about it – I will be a rural vet."

Besides his college classes these days, he continues to help tend to 500 cows, 18 bulls, 200 yearlings, several broodmare horses and a few colts on the Richards family ranch.

"There are five people in our family, and we run the whole deal," Daniel says. "There's my mom and dad (Brenda and Tony); my brother, Tom, who is a senior in high school; and my brother, John, who is in eighth grade.

"Nowadays, not a whole lot of families get along well enough to work together, but we do. It's nice when my brothers and I go out and build a half-mile of fence together, and get it done in a hurry. It's a great feeling of accomplishment doing something with your family and for your family."

> "Honestly, the most valuable lesson I learned was **how to keep good records,** which is vital when you are running a ranch with a herd in the hundreds."

The Idaho high-desert community of Reynolds Creek is a small one – in fact, it is rarely even pictured on maps. Murphy is the closest town, and Melba is the nearest with a school.

"Melba High School is where I got involved with FFA," Daniel says. "My sophomore FFA foods career development

WITH A FLICK OF HIS WRIST, DANIEL MAKES COMPLICATED ROPE TRICKS LOOK EASY.

event team went to the nationals, and my junior group qualified for the soils nationals in Oklahoma. My senior year was devoted to my own FFA livestock project."

His supervised agricultural experience program involved the purchase of three cows from his uncle, Pat Richards, who is a veterinarian himself.

Uncle Pat sold his nephew three heifers that were all implanted with embryo transfers.

Daniel explains that embryo transfer involves a fertilized egg that a vet will flush out of a cow and freeze. He later places the fertilized egg into another cow (called a recip, or recipient, cow) that has a strong mothering ability. Using the embryo transfer process helps Daniel build a more genetically uniform herd and prevents him from having to purchase an expensive bull.

Daniel, as planned, wound up with calves that had an ideal combination of genetics. The cows required minimal assistance while calving, and the offspring weaned at 500 to 600 pounds. The calves were then put out to pasture to feed until they topped out for slaughter at 1,250 to 1,350 pounds.

"Ideal calves vary depending upon what part of the country you're in," he says. "I spent a little time in Nevada, and there they like Beefmaster calves that they ultimately send to California to feed. Here in Idaho, buyers like English breeds and Angus, so getting those kinds of calves was my goal in the FFA project. It all boils down to better genetics for the food table."

Daniel had such success with attaining high-powered calves that he purchased 15 more bred cows the next year, and many of those cows and their offspring still live on his family's ranch today.

"I'm not involved anymore with the embryo transfer method – the 18 bulls on our ranch breed the cows naturally," he says. "In fact, some of the embryo transfer calves came out as bulls, so we kept them as herd bulls for the family ranch.

"All in all, as a result of the FFA project, I ended up with 30 cows, and I've brought in my brothers as partners to help me. Every time we sell a calf from one of these cows, we split the paycheck three ways."

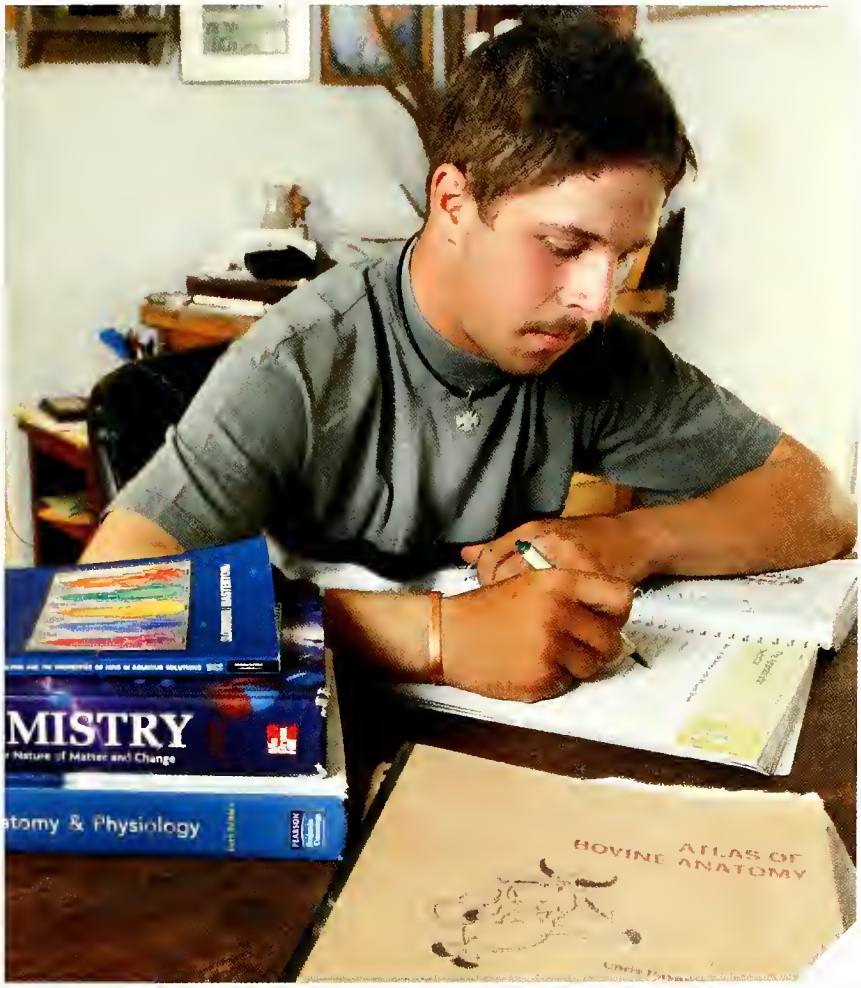
Daniel says he "learned plenty" from his FFA project, but what he most appreciates still somewhat surprises him whenever he thinks about it.

"Honestly, the most valuable lesson I learned was how to keep good records, which is vital when you are running a ranch with a herd in the hundreds," he says. "You need to keep tabs on vaccinations, tagging, branding, food rations, vitamins – all that kind of stuff. I've enjoyed my FFA experiences, and it might sound strange coming from someone who loves being outdoors on the ranch, but record-keeping is the lesson that I value the most."

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

To see more photos of Daniel's ranch, click on Features.



Daniel knows it takes hard work, motivation and countless study hours to achieve his goal of becoming a veterinarian, but in his spare time, he enjoys competing for award buckles and prizes at nearby horse shows.

The Woodville FFA chapter in Texas used its seed $ of hope money to replace a completely destroyed greenhouse.

What a Relief

Hurricane-affected chapters rebuild, thanks to Seeds of Hope program

Story by Kim Newsom

More than 18 months have passed since hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused severe damage to the Gulf Coast, yet affected FFA chapters in the five-state region are still picking up the pieces.

"Rebuilding is proving to be a long process, but we're finally back on track now," says Reagan Pillack, FFA advisor at Woodville High School in Texas, whose chapter suffered severe damage to its greenhouse and teaching farm.

"The greenhouse structure and tables were completely bent, and the plastic sheeting had large holes ripped in it," Pillack explains. "We had no other choice than to rebuild."

She adds, though, that her chapter was lucky. Some schools in Texas, along with Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, lost nearly everything – books, facilities, equipment and even livestock.

"Agricultural education, by nature, is largely dependent on teaching supplies," explains Jeff Papke, FFA Local Program Success specialist for the Southeast region. "It takes a lot of years for an individual program to catalog the supplies they need, and in almost an instant, they were gone."

A FRIEND IN NEED

But despite their significant losses, the schools are beginning to put back together the supplies needed to provide a quality education, thanks in part to the national Seeds of Hope campaign, organized by the National Association of Agricultural Educators and FFA. The program, initiated in September 2005, raised an impressive $835,699 in monetary and in-kind donations.

"Immediately following the hurricanes, many people across the country felt a calling to help," Papke says. "The Seeds of Hope program was just one of many outlets where

Wisconsin's Freedom FFA volunteered in Mississippi.

Louisiana's Johnson Bayou FFA helped with landscaping efforts.

A Helping Hand

After hearing the first news of hurricane activity, FFA chapters across the country sprang into action. While there's no way to recognize every chapter and member who assisted, here's a sampling:

Several state associations, including Georgia and Arkansas, opened their camps to evacuees, providing them with meals, bedding and gift cards to buy needed supplies.

KFDI-TV made an impact through their television campaign during the national convention. They made a $50,000 contribution on-air in September and another $75,000 contribution during the national FFA convention.

Even though they experienced hurricane damage themselves, Ponchatoula FFA in Louisiana organized a backpack project. The members collected and filled more than 47,000 backpacks with supplies for affected schools.

Lincoln Electric donated 100 generators to FFA chapters in the Gulf Coast region.

Beverley Manor Middle School in Virginia traveled 1,040 miles to deliver six trailer-loads of emergency supplies to the Taylorsville FFA Chapter in Mississippi. Taylorsville members then distributed the supplies to local residents.

Countless FFA members bought Seed's of Hope T-shirts and wristbands, with all proceeds going to the program.

Kubota donated 10 RTV utility vehicles to be distributed to chapters for use on their school farms.

Seeds of Hope helped Louisiana's Ponchatoula FFA attend the convention.

FFA members could help their friends in need. And the response was unbelievable – surpassing any expectations I had in the beginning."

Some $38,000 of the money was distributed prior to the 2005 National FFA Convention, allowing members involved in talent, band, career development events, proficiency interviews and the American FFA Degree ceremony to attend.

"Coming to convention, for many chapters, was a chance for them to escape the devastation for just a few days," Papke says. "They had earned their right to come to the convention, and I'm glad this program made it happen for them."

However, the majority of the funds were earmarked for rebuilding efforts – the founding goal of the program. Josh Bledsoe, team leader for FFA leadership and educational programs, explains the campaign as a way to "help rebuild and create sustainability."

"The name Seeds of Hope really explains what this program was about," Bledsoe says. "The 'seeds,' or support from our generous donors, will now allow these schools to grow into thriving programs once again. FFA members should be proud of what their contributions have done."

BUILDING BACK

Several of the schools, including Woodville, have already gone back to business – literally. With its portion of the Seeds of Hope money, Woodville built back their greenhouse in September 2006 – one year after losing the original one to Hurricane Rita – and this year's plant sale is well under way. Members are busy repairing fences, and they hosted a successful county fair this past year.

"I find it very comforting to know that people who don't even know where Woodville is felt a call to help," Pillack says. "I remind my students daily that we owe the Seeds of Hope program – and each individual donor – a sincere thank-you. We are truly blessed to be part of the Ag Ed and FFA family."

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

To see more Seeds of Hope photos, click on Features.

Washington Leadership Conference 2007

Our 2007 Conference Dates

WEEK 1
JUNE 5-10

WEEK 2
JUNE 12-17

WEEK 3
JUNE 19-24

WEEK 4
JUNE 26-JULY 1

WEEK 5
JULY 10-15

WEEK 6
JULY 17-22

WEEK 7
JULY 24-29

teamwork character friendships service influence sharing

WLC WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

For more information, visit ffa.org
Registration begins March 2007

BUILT Ford TOUGH

WLC is sponsored by Ford Trucks as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

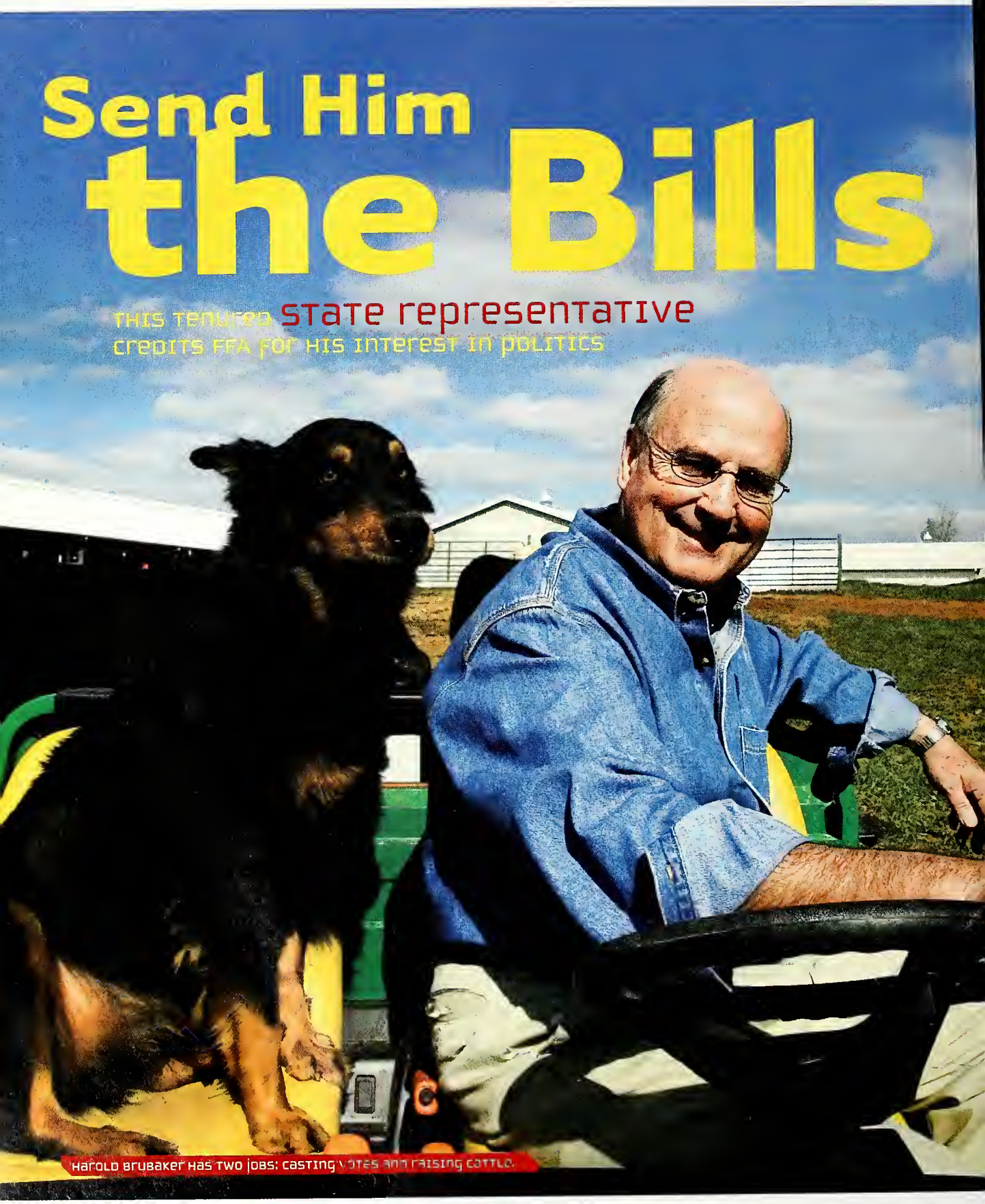
THE FFA MISSION

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

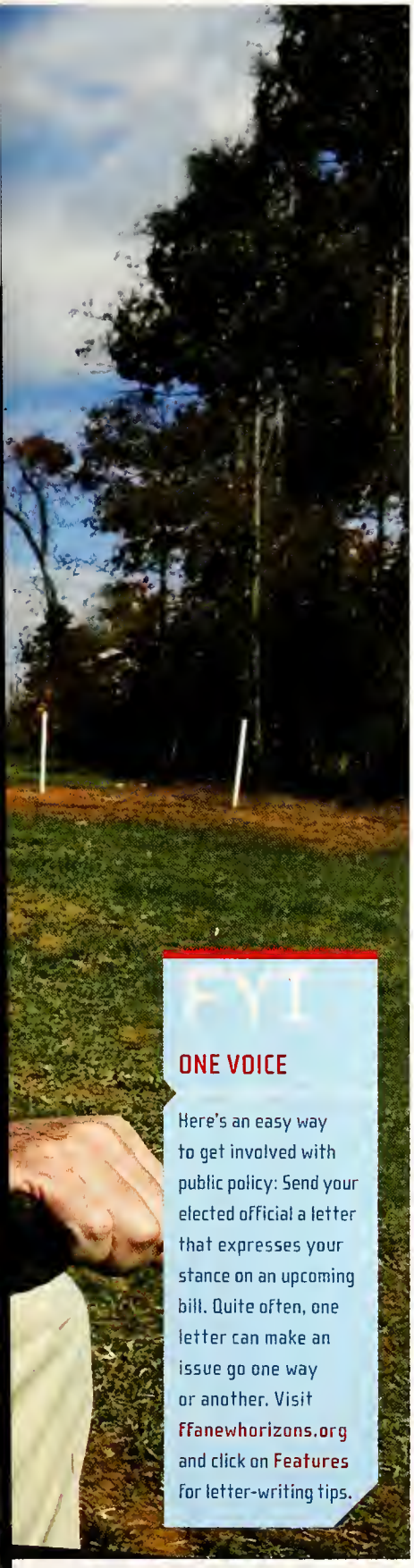
The Agricultural Education Mission: Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems. The National FFA Organization is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the National FFA Organization Constitution and Bylaws. The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

Send Him the Bills

This tenured state representative credits FFA for his interest in politics



Harold Brubaker has two jobs: casting votes and raising cattle.



Story by Chris Hayhurst
Photography by Michael W. Bunch

For most politicians, Election Day is a time of uncertainty. Your job, after all, hangs in the balance. If the votes go your way, you're in. If not, well, goodbye and good luck.

Harold Brubaker, though, is no ordinary politician. Brubaker, a Republican member of the North Carolina General Assembly's 120-member House of Representatives, has been elected – and re-elected – 15 times. Over his 30-year career in office, he's never once lost.

And the 2006 election was no different. "I didn't have an opponent," he explains. "Once every eight years or so someone will run against me, but it's not often."

NEW YEAR, SAME JOB

In late January, the 2007 legislative term started, and Brubaker's familiar place of work in the state capital, Raleigh, began buzzing with activity. Along with his fellow lawmakers, Republicans and Democrats alike, he is writing and reviewing bills, delivering and listening to speeches, and hosting and attending meetings. Most importantly, he is casting votes on new legislation. As a representative of Randolph County in North Carolina House District 78 – which includes the city of Asheboro, where he lives – Brubaker's job is to make sure the state's laws are in the best interest of his constituents. And one vote at a time, that's exactly what he attempts to do.

MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Despite all the years he's been in public office, there's something about Representative Brubaker that most people don't know: He used to be in FFA. In fact, as a high school student in Mount Joy, Pa., he served as vice president of his chapter. He also served as Pennsylvania state FFA secretary. And it was during his tenure as the 1966-67 national FFA vice president that he first realized a career in politics might be worth a shot.

"I was at the national FFA convention," recalls Brubaker. "Each year we had a number of elected officials who would come and speak, and that year it was Wayne Morse, a U.S. senator from Oregon. I was responsible for introducing him and for escorting him around. I remember sitting down and talking with him about his work, and he told me about his background in agriculture in the Midwest. So I asked him if a farm boy like myself could ever get elected. [Senator Morse] looked me in the eye and said, 'Absolutely.' That really sparked my enthusiasm."

> "IT'S CRUCIAL TO KNOW WHAT MOTIONS SUPERSEDE OTHER MOTIONS AND WHAT IS PERMITTED VERSUS WHAT IS NOT. ***I'd learned all that in FFA.***"

Brubaker eventually moved to North Carolina, where in 1976, at the age of 29, he was elected to his first term in the House. A few years later, even as he continued to serve, he started a real estate appraisal company. He also began a Belgian Blue cattle farm on 150 acres of

FYI

ONE VOICE

Here's an easy way to get involved with public policy: Send your elected official a letter that expresses your stance on an upcoming bill. Quite often, one letter can make an issue go one way or another. Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on Features for letter-writing tips.

land. Both businesses are still in operation today.

HIS PLACE IN HISTORY

A unique accomplishment for Brubaker – and a historic one – was holding the House leadership position of speaker from 1995 to 1998.

"I was the first Republican speaker in a hundred years and the only one since," says Brubaker.

As speaker of the House, he ran the House floor. He was also responsible for appointing members and chairs of the various standing committees of the House. Many newcomers to the job would have found the task daunting.

But not Brubaker.

"As speaker, you have to know parliamentary procedure," he explains. "It's crucial to know what motions supersede other motions and what is permitted versus what is not. I'd learned all that in FFA. My FFA experience – the leadership training, the public speaking, parliamentary procedure – really helped."

LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD

You might think a man like Representative Brubaker would have a few tips for the next generation of politicians – those of you entertaining ideas of someday running for office. And he does.

"Be active in your local community," recommends Brubaker, "and be active in the political party of your choice. It's amazing how doors will open and opportunities will arise. Take advantage of that."

Taking advantage of open doors, of course, is just what Brubaker intends to do this legislative year. That's the approach Brubaker has taken all along, and judging by his success, it's worked. In fact, reflecting on the 30 years that have passed, Brubaker has no regrets whatsoever.

He says, "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing."

Brubaker has served as a North Carolina legislator for 30 years.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS CAN BE INITIATED IN:

A. House of Representatives

B. Senate

C. Both chambers of Congress

THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS ____ DAYS TO VETO A BILL.

A. 7

B. 10

C. 14

STATE GOVERNMENTS DO NOT CONTROL THIS:

A. Issuing licenses

B. Establishing post offices

C. Conducting elections

PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON TOOK HIS FIRST OATH OF OFFICE IN ____.

A. New York City

B. Washington, D.C.

C. Philadelphia

A PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE LANGUAGE OF A BILL IS CALLED A(N):

A. Enrolled bill

B. Line-item veto

C. Amendment

A NEW U.S. FARM BILL IS PASSED EVERY ____ YEARS.

A. 1-2

B. 4-8

C. 10-12

THIS BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT ENFORCES THE LAWS OF THE LAND.

A. Executive Branch

B. Legislative Branch

ANSWERS: 1 C | 2 B | 3 B | 4 A | 5 C | 6 B | 7 A

KNOW YOUR LAW LINGO?

Maybe agricultural policy is the career choice for you. Besides public service, you might consider a career as a lobbyist, law journalist, U.S. Postal Service employee, government liaison or in the military.

For an extended list of public policy jobs, visit **ffanewhorizons.org** and click on **Life & Learning**.

VISIT OUR ADVERTISERS

General Motors/ Chevrolet Division
www.generalmotors.com

GMAC Consumer Finance
www.smartedgebygmac.com

National FFA Organization
www.ffa.org

Rada Cutlery
www.radamfg.com

Red Wing Shoe Company
www.redwingshoes.com

Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc.
www.toyota.com

Tractor Supply Company
www.mytscstore.com

U.S. Marine Corps
www.marines.com

VF Jeanswear
www.wrangler.com

Decoding Your Deductions

Knowing where your money is going can help ease the pain

FAST TAX FACTS

- For those earning less than $24,600 per year, the federal income tax rate is about 15 percent of your total earnings.
- The state income tax rate ranges from zero to 9.3 percent, depending on your state and income, according to practicalmoneyskills.com.
- Social Security deductions are about 6.2 percent of your gross income.
- Medicare deductions are about 1.45 to 2.9 percent of your gross income.

Landing your first job is by all accounts an important milestone in the journey to independence. You're getting real-world experience and taking on new responsibilities, not to mention everyone's favorite part – earning a bona fide paycheck.

So why isn't that paycheck as big as you expected?

Understanding where those pesky paycheck deductions are going just may ease the pain.

TAXES EXPLAINED

So here's the deal: Every citizen in the United States who earns an income must pay taxes to the government. Deductions most employers automatically take from an employee's paycheck include federal and, in some cases, state income taxes.

These are usually referred to on your paycheck stub as "Federal Withholding" and "State Withholding."

Federal and state income taxes are used to fund thousands of programs and services, including education, law enforcement, park preservation and highway improvements – all of which benefit you or someone you know.

Another standard deduction is for FICA, the Federal Insurance Contribution Act. This is money you contribute to Social Security and Medicare, two federal programs designed to assist you once you retire.

Some good news: If you're still a full-time student who's working, you probably don't have to pay FICA for now.

But if you have asked for benefits such as life insurance, health insurance or a retirement plan, the cost of these will be deducted from your paycheck.

GROSS VERSUS NET

Ultimately, your take-home pay can be quite a bit less than what you actually earn. That's the difference between gross income and net income.

Gross income is your total salary. Say you work eight hours per day, five days a week and are paid $10 an hour. Your gross income is $400 a week. Your net income is your take-home pay – the money left after all the deductions.

It might be shocking to see your money dwindle while the deductions add up, but the system isn't likely to change anytime soon.

As Benjamin Franklin said back in 1789, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

If you have any questions about the amounts being deducted from your check, be sure to talk to your employer. It's also a good idea to keep copies of your pay stubs so you can refer to them if you have any questions about how the numbers were calculated.

– Rebecca Denton

Do you

DREAM

of buying a new vehicle? Just click

ON

SmartEdgebyGMAC.com and start making your dream come true.

With SmartEdge, you can learn how to establish good credit, manage your budget and, of course, how to finance your dream vehicle. One visit today could pay off handsomely for years to come.

WWW.SMARTEDGEBYGMAC.COM

© 2006 GMAC. All rights reserved. GMAC is a registered trademark. SmartEdge is a registered service mark of GMAC.

SmartEdge GMAC

Standing Up to Stress

Take control with these simple steps

The end of the school year is coming up, but this is no time to wind down.

With FFA chapter banquets, career development events, conventions and summer camps fast approaching, not to mention exams, dances and graduation events, it's the peak season for fun – and stress.

In small quantities, stress can be a good thing, motivating you to study hard for a test or memorize your lines for a play. But stress overload is a different story.

Scientifically speaking, stress is what happens when your body reacts to a tense situation – everything from real physical danger to presenting a class project.

Your nervous system activates certain hormones that increase your heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure and metabolism.

That stress response may boost your ability to perform well under pressure, but long-term stressful situations can wreak havoc on the body.

The nervous system can continue to pump out extra stress hormones, which can weaken your body's immune system – leaving you feeling overwhelmed.

So how can you avoid stressing out? Here are some steps you can take to stay in control:

BE REALISTIC.

This is a hard one for overachievers, but don't expect yourself – or others – to be perfect. Also, don't be too afraid or proud to ask for help.

MANAGE YOUR SCHEDULE.

Easier said than done, right? But this can make a big difference in your stress-o-meter. If you're feeling stretched, try to cut out an activity or two. Stay involved only with activities that are most important to you.

MAKE TIME FOR YOU.

Build some time into your schedule for activities that you find calming and enjoyable – reading a book, taking a leisurely bath, walking your dog or listening to music. Just a few minutes of relaxation a day can make a big difference in your stress level.

PLAN AHEAD.

Don't wait until the last minute to study for a final exam or prepare for a speech competition. Planning your study schedule in advance helps avoid last-minute cramming and makes the whole process much less stressful.

SEE THE BIG PICTURE.

Learn to think of challenges and change as a normal part of life, and try to view setbacks and problems as temporary and solvable – not disasters. Developing these positive attitudes can help build your resilience to stress.

– Rebecca Denton

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

Click on Life and Learning for more ways to zap stress.

just a click away
ffanewhorizons.org

Want MORE *FFA New Horizons*? Check out the magazine's all-new website. There, you'll find MORE photos, MORE stories, MORE quizzes and a LOT MORE information. And remember to check back often for FFA news updates!

Fun quizzes

Virtual magazines

Photo galleries

JOURNAL COMMUNICATIONS INC.
Custom Magazine Publishing

FYI

IN THE KNOW

Where do FFA members receive their news? Our recent poll found out.

14.9% Newspapers

42.4% Magazines

16.6% Web

22.6% Television

3.5% Other (parents, telephone, radio)

Source: Survey of 903 FFA members conducted during the 79th National FFA Convention. To participate in our latest polls, visit ffanewhorizons.org.

what's hot in agriculture

Plowing Ahead

Exactly 170 years ago, little-known blacksmith John Deere created the first commercially produced steel plow. After seeing farmers struggle for years with clumsy cast-iron plows, Deere studied the problem and became convinced that a specially designed steel plow would do the trick. He was right: In 1837, Deere sold his first one, called a "self-polisher" plow. Sales of Deere's farmer-friendly plow took off, and with a growing plow business, he moved from Grand Detour, Ill., to nearby Moline. That single invention – and Deere's dedication to helping agriculturalists – was the modest beginning for the now worldwide Deere & Company business.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEERE & COMPANY, MOLINE, ILL.

$600

Fort White FFA members in Florida raised $600 for breast cancer awareness during the state's "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" campaign.

Your Vote:

Answer these for an upcoming What's Hot.

I get college and career information from:

- ❒ Guidance counselors/teachers
- ❒ Internet
- ❒ College contacts
- ❒ Other (please specify)

_____

If I had to describe FFA in one word, it would be:

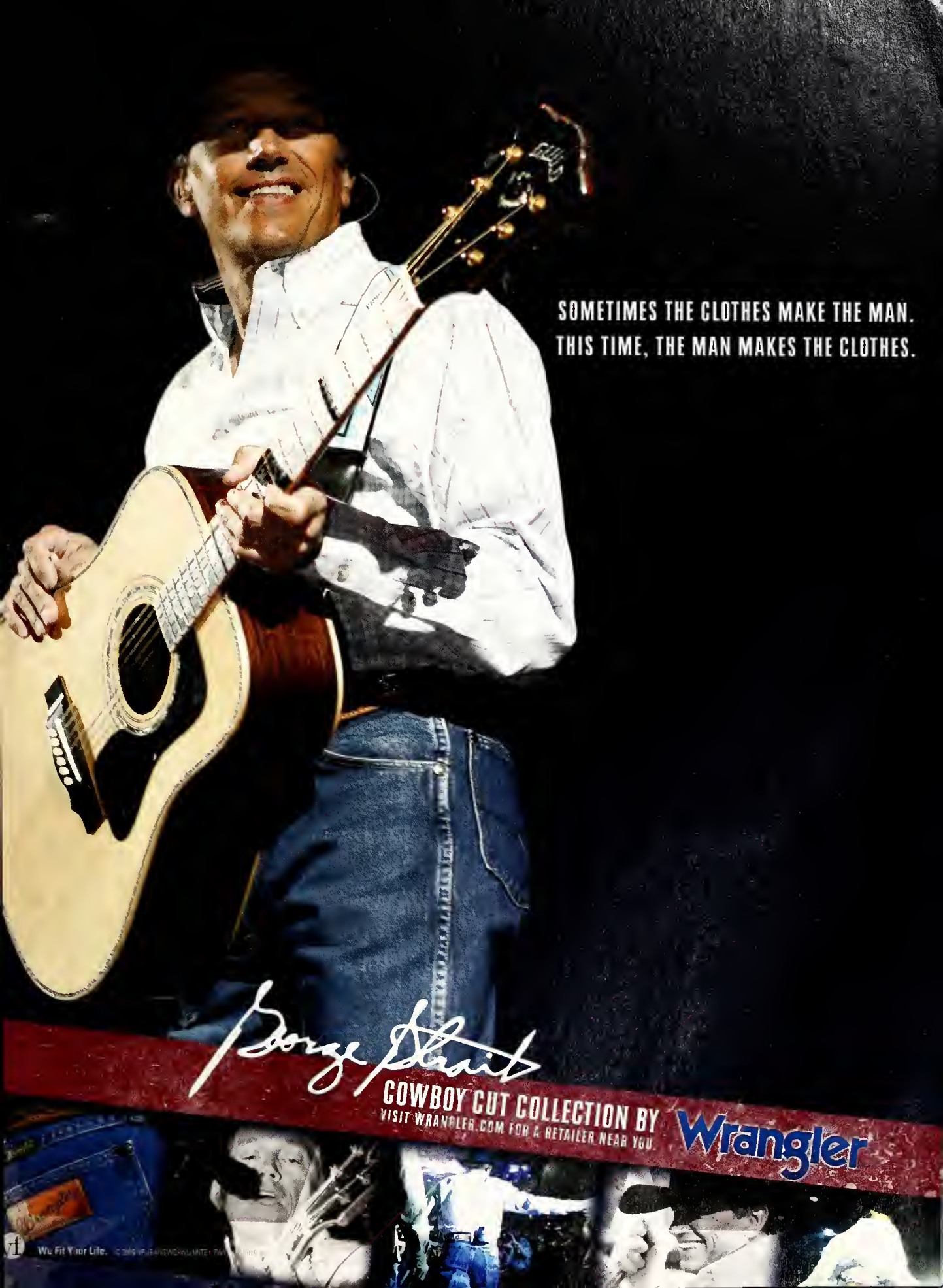
_____

Send completed surveys to:
What's Hot, *FFA New Horizons*
P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268
Or, submit your answers online at ffanewhorizons.org.

what's hot in technology

Un-bee-lievably Smart

Bees have always been regarded as highly intelligent, but get this: Scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico say they have trained bees to sniff out explosives. When the bees smell these odors, they display behaviors similar to how they react when feeding on nectar. Following more studies into these animal behavior patterns, these trained bees could be used to detect explosives at airports, schools or roadside security checks.


SOMETIMES THE CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN.
THIS TIME, THE MAN MAKES THE CLOTHES.
George Strait
COWBOY CUT COLLECTION BY
VISIT WRANGLER.COM FOR A RETAILER NEAR YOU.
Wrangler
We Fit Your Life.

Master Your Résumé

Six steps to a great first impression

FYI

SEE MORE ONLINE

Consider yourself a "visual learner"? Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on Life & Learning for an interactive version of this story. And if you have other questions about résumés, job interviews or college admissions, be sure to submit those on the Tell Us page. Our resident résumé guru will post her answers on the Web site.

Whether you're applying at your dream college or just looking for a part-time job, a well-polished résumé is more influential than you may think. Your résumé may be just one piece of paper, but it's a marketing tool selling a very important product – you.

Résumés are often an employer's – or college admissions officer's – first introduction to you, and many times, it's the deciding factor on whether you get an interview. So what can you do to spice up your résumé? Dr. K. Virginia Hemby, an associate professor in the Business Communication and Entrepreneurship Department at Middle Tennessee State University, shares her steps for creating an impressive résumé.

1. START FRESH.

Begin with a **blank document**; do not use a template provided by your word processing software.

"When applicants use a template and fill in the necessary information, they are conveying to the prospective employer that they lack initiative and are lazy," Hemby says.

Also, hold off on the flashy colors and fancy fonts, and stick to easy-to-read fonts such as Times New Roman or Arial.

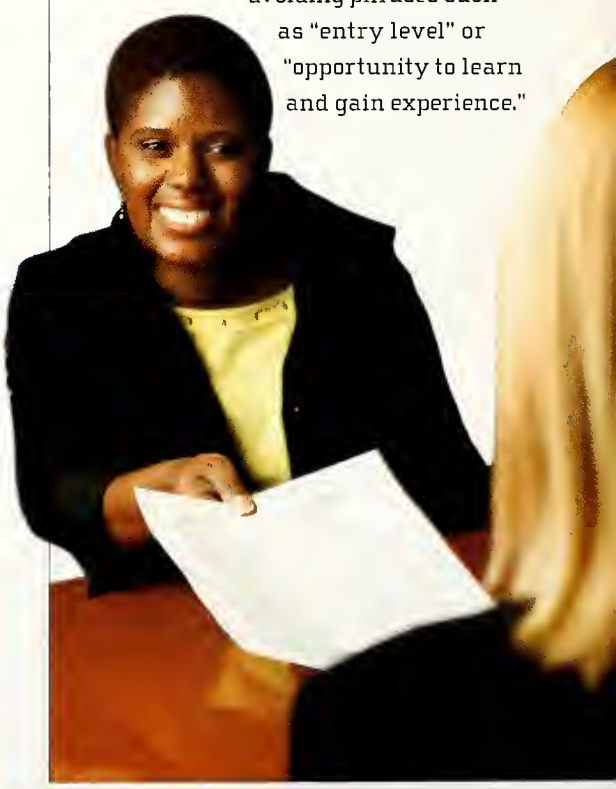
2. BE PROFESSIONAL.

Always place your **contact information** at the top of your résumé, including your name, address, phone number(s) and e-mail address. But when it comes to e-mail addresses, Hemby offers some vital advice.

"Students often list e-mail addresses that would be considered inappropriate or unprofessional," she says. "E-mail addresses such as hotmama@yahoo.com or studmuffin@hotmail.com are not the types employers desire to see." If you're unsure about your e-mail address, set up a new, professionally named e-mail account through free hosting sites.

3. KNOW YOUR GOAL.

Don't forget your **job objective**, which tells employers what type of position you're looking for as well as your qualifications and career goals. Pay close attention to your choice of words, avoiding phrases such as "entry level" or "opportunity to learn and gain experience."



"[Those words] tell employers that the applicant has no experience and no idea what job or position they actually desire," Hemby says. Instead, be as specific as possible: If you're applying for different jobs with different responsibilities, tweak your objective to fit each position.

4. BRAG A LITTLE.

Prospective employers and colleges like to see **experience**, and a summary of your pre-professional experience can help improve your résumé even if you haven't had many (or any) formal jobs. Using reverse chronological order with your most recent experience listed first, note any organizations, internships, volunteer work or other involvements related to the industry to which you are applying.

In fact, FFA experience – such as public speaking, career development events, workshops, and chapter offices or committee positions – can help get your foot in the door.

When referencing FFA, remember to write out – and explain – your involvement, in case the reader isn't familiar with the organization. For example, you might say "wrote and presented an agriculture-related speech for the FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event."

5. REMEMBER SCHOOL.

Hemby says **education** is just as important as experience. If you don't have a degree yet, say something such as, "High school diploma anticipated in May 2008." Also remember to include any high school or college courses that relate to the specific job.

6. READ CLOSELY.

Proofread. Don't count on spell-check to catch your mistakes, particularly common ones such as misusing "there," "their" and "they're." Hemby suggests reading your résumé backward from the last word on the bottom line, right to left:

> "Résumés are often an employer's – or college admissions officer's – **first introduction to you,** and many times, it's the deciding factor on whether you get an interview".

"When you use this technique, you are reading one word at a time and not groups of words," says Hemby. "Therefore, you are much less likely to 'read into' what you believe the résumé says."

Also, have a parent, teacher or friend look for mistakes you might have missed. After all, it's important to your potential employer.

"Spelling errors and/or grammatical mistakes and/or punctuation errors would cause me to immediately discard a résumé," Hemby says. "Employers expect a résumé to be perfect."

– Jessy Yancey

Fund Raising

Your non-profit club, team, church or school works directly with the manufacturer to make great profits. Your customers receive a tremendous value on kitchen knives, utensils and gift sets while supporting your cause.

Rada Cutlery's reputation for Made in the USA quality is well known. We have made and sold 100,000,000 items since 1948! Our proven fund raising system guarantees your success.

Request your **FREE** catalog and information packet:

1-800-311-9691

or **www.RadaCutlery.com**

NOTE: Dept **A07FFA**

Find out why our customers say that "Rada knives sell themselves!"

RADA CUTLERY

"A Cut Above The Rest"

We want to give you $1,000!

- Are you interested in owning your own business?
- Do you have an idea for a business?
- Do you own your SAE?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Agri-Entrepreneurship Program is for you!

This unique program recognizes FFA members who have an idea for a business and have developed a plan to pursue their idea as well as students who have actually started businesses as their SAEs. Better yet, you can win $150+ at the chapter level, $100+ at the state level, and, each year ten national winners receive $1,000 each! All the details are on the FFA website, www.ffa.org/programs/ag_ent/index.html.

The national application deadline is July 15. Download your application and get started today!

Sponsored by USDA-Rural Development as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

web

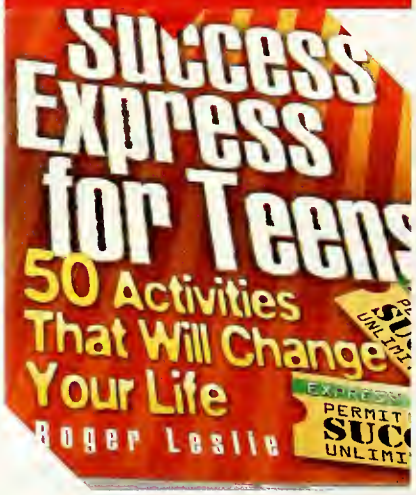
Screen Savvy

Can't get enough *FFA New Horizons*? Check out our new website at **ffanewhorizons.org**, where you will find more information, quizzes and polls. You can also read the entire issue on the Web. Click on **Virtual Magazine** to see this month's issue and learn about the Web version's special features. Also be sure to check out our tutorial on how to use the virtual magazine links.

books

All Aboard

If you'd like to learn how to make your dreams reality, the book *Success Express for Teens* is a good read for you. Author Roger Leslie suggests 50 activities that will help you define your goals and aspirations, and then develop ways to achieve them. For example, in one activity, you'll create a "lifeboard" with newspaper clippings, photos and words that visually represent you. To read an excerpt from the book and find out how to order, visit **ffanewhorizons.org** and click on **The Buzz**.



tv

share

Street Team

If you're a big fan of pop culture, come join our Street Team. We're relying on our team to share the latest media buzz, from the most popular movies to your favorite summer songs. Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on Tell Us to give us your picks for the newest books, music, movies and FFA information.

FFA Today

If you haven't been watching the FFA Today! television show on RFD-TV, it's time to tune in. The April and May shows will feature information on Earth Day projects, the Postsecondary Agricultural Student (PAS) association and chapters from all regions of the country. For more information, check out the "FFA Today" link on ffa.org.

FFA NEW HORIZONS®

Volume 54 · Number 4

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

JULIE WOODARD	Editorial Director
KIM NEWSOM	Managing Editor
JOYCE CARUTHERS	Copy Editor
REBECCA DENTON, CHRIS HAYHURST, KEVIN LITWIN, JESSY YANCEY	Contributing Writers
KEITH HARRIS	Creative Director
GREG EMENS	Chief Photographer
WES ALDRIDGE, ANTONY BOSHIER, MICHAEL W. BUNCH, BRIAN McCORD	Staff Photographers
NATASHA LORENS	Production Director
HAZEL RISNER	Pre-press Coordinator
TADARA SMITH	Senior Production Project Manager
AMANDA McALLISTER	Senior Graphic Designer
VIKKI WILLIAMS	Graphic Design
ALISON HUNTER	Digital Asset Manager
SHAWN DANIEL	Web Design Director
GINNY BERG, KRISTY MEYER, AMBER STRIEGEL	FFA Communications
CARLA HENRY	Sr. V.P./Sales
MARK FORESTER	V.P./Visual Content
CASEY E. HESTER	V.P./Production
TEREE CARUTHERS	Executive Editor
KIMBERLY JOHNSON	Ad Project Manager
CHRISTINA CARDEN	Ad Production Manager
JILL WYATT	State Insert Coordinator
MINDY ARBOUR, SARAH MILLER, PATRICIA MOISAN	Ad Traffic
GARY SMITH	Distribution Director
PATTI CORNELIUS	Client & Sales Services Manager/ Custom Magazines

For advertising information, contact Kimberly Johnson, (800) 333-8842, ext. 277, or e-mail kjohnson@sales.jnlcom.com

National FFA Officers

BEAU WILLIAMSON, CA	President
KACY BAUGHER, IL	Secretary
CODY BACK, KY	Eastern Region Vice President
JAMIE CECIL, CO	Central Region Vice President
JENNIFER HIMBURG, AL	Southern Region Vice President
JANETTE BARNARD, AZ	Western Region Vice President

National FFA Staff

LARRY CASE	National Advisor, Chief Executive Officer
C. COLEMAN HARRIS	Executive Secretary
DOUG LOUDENSLAGER	Chief Operating Officer
MARION FLETCHER	National Treasurer
MARK CAVELL, DALE CRABTREE, TOM KAPOSTASY, JANET MALONEY, ANNA MELODIA, DENNIS SARGENT, KENT SCHESCKE, VICKI SETTLE, LEE ANNE SHILLER, TONY SMALL, BILL STAGG, WILL WAIDELICH	Division Directors

National FFA Board of Directors – Members

LARRY CASE	Chair, USDE, VA
C. COLEMAN HARRIS	Secretary, USDE, VA
MARION FLETCHER	Treasurer, State Supervisor, AR
STEVE BROWN	State Supervisor/USDE, MI
THOMAS DORMODY	Teacher Educator/USDE, NM
DENNIS FISCUS	State Supervisor, AZ
STEVE GASS	State Supervisor, TN
DALE GRUIS	State Supervisor, IA
IKE KERSHAW	State Supervisor, OH
JASON LARISON	Agriculture Teacher/USDE, KS
LINDA PETERSEN	Agriculture Teacher/USDE, SD

Subscription Information:
FFA New Horizons (ISSN 1069-806X) is published Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. and Dec. by The National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts, art or any other unsolicited materials. For subscription information, call (317) 802-4310 or e-mail newhorizons@ffa.org. Periodical postage rate is paid at Indianapolis, Ind., and additional mail offices.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to *FFA New Horizons*, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960.

JOURNAL COMMUNICATIONS INC.
Custom Magazine Publishing

Copyright© 2007 by The National FFA Organization and Journal Communications Inc.

The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Dr. Troy Justesen

Former Utah member administers Ag-Ed policy in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Troy Justesen addresses Utah FFA members. PHOTO BY WES ALDRIDGE

Dr. Troy Justesen has a title that he admits is quite lengthy. As the Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education in the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), Dr. Justesen oversees career, technical and adult education, including agricultural education and FFA. You might say he serves as a government liaison for the FFA organization, and as a former Emery FFA Chapter member from Orangeville, Utah, Dr. Justesen is well-prepared for the role.

Q Can you give us a brief explanation of how FFA and USDE are related?

A FFA and USDE are strong partners because Congress wants us to be. In fact, FFA was granted a federal charter in 1950. Also, the national FFA advisor, Dr. Larry Case, is a USDE employee – more specifically, within my office. Therefore, we (USDE and FFA) are closely intertwined.

Q Did any of your agriculture classes prepare you for this role?

A Actually, all of my agriculture classes did. In one class, my teacher, Bob Gowans, assigned us to write and present an agriculture-related report. I chose to write about Hereford bulls, since that was what my family raised. Although I was comfortable with my topic, I was terrified of presenting my report. But I got through it, and little did I know, I would be writing reports and giving speeches my entire career. So, yes, my agriculture courses absolutely translated into my current job.

Q What career advice would you give today's FFA members?

A Start now. Talk to a lot of people or explore different careers on the Internet. It's a great place to look around and open up your options. Also, I encourage you to find a career that truly interests you. Do what you want to do.

Q You are a strong proponent of community service. Why?

A I think the little things you do really help a person live a better day. You may not think you do much, but I guarantee that it makes a difference. Your actions could be simple – from cleaning snow off a neighbor's car to tutoring another student. Give back. It's a personal joy to help others.

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

To read more about Dr. Justesen, click on Features.

You will become a storied protector
of 231 years of tradition.
You will faithfully serve with purpose.
You will become
the piercing tip of America's sword.
If you have what it takes to make it.
MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.
MARINES.COM | 1-800-MARINES

YOU ARE HERE
YOUR GRASS IS HERE
AND HERE
AND WAY OUT HERE
No lawn is too big for Tractor Supply. We've got a full line of outdoor power equipment, including traditional lawn tractors and time-saving Zero-Turn mowers with deck sizes up to 60 inches wide.
THE STUFF YOU NEED OUT HERE. | TSC TRACTOR SUPPLY Co
© 2007 Tractor Supply Company